

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 11660 251918Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03

H-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 VO-03 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-15 DRC-01 /108 W

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R 251510Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2368

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS UR CASC (GHARIBIAN, RAZMIK)

SUBJ: EXIT VISA REPRESENTATION: US-SOVIET MARRIAGE CASES

REF: MOSCOW 9663 AND A-517

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: CONSOFF APPEALED ANEW TO SOVIET MFA SEP 25 IN GHARIBIAN MARRIAGE CASE (REFTEL). CONSOFF POINTED OUT TO MFA OFFICIALS AT SAME TIME EMBASSY DISAPPOINTMENT OVER CONTINUING BUREAUCRATIC DIFFICULTIES AND DELAYS FACED IN VIRTUALLY ALL US-SOVIET MARRIAGE CASES, AND HE EXPRESSED NEED FOR SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO TAKE MORE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE TOWARD EXPEDITIOUS REUNIFICATION OF US-SOVIET SPOUSES. END SUMMARY.

2. CONSOFF CALLED ON MFA COUNSULAR ADMINISTRATION FIRST SECRETARY NECHAYEV SEPT 25 TO PRESENT EMBASSY NONPAPER ON GHARIBIAN MARRIAGE CASE (MOSCOW REFTEL). CASE CONCERNS SOVIET CITIZEN RAZMIK GHARIBIAN, WHO APPLIED TO YEREVAN OVIR OFFICE FEB 15 FOR PERMISSION JOIN FOR PER-

MANENT RESIDENCE US HIS WIFE, AMCIT HELEN SIMONIAN GHARIBIAN OF DETROIT. (MARRIAGE TOOK PLACE IN YEREVAN NOV 1972). CONSOFF EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT OVER FACT THAT GHARIBIAN HAS NOT YET
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 11660 251918Z

RECEIVED REPLY TO HIS APPLICATION. CONSOFF STATED THAT SUCH

BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS UNFORTUNATELY HAVE BEEN TYPICAL IN US-SOVIET MARRIAGE CASES, AND HE EMPHASIZED NEED FOR SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO TAKE MORE FORTHCOMING APPROACH IN VIEW OF GROWING NUMBER OF SUCH MARRIAGES. CONSOFF ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT AS IN MOST US-SOVIET FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASES, THERE IS STRONG CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN THIS MATTER. (SUGGEST DEPT INFORM REP. JOHN DINGELL OF MICHIGAN WHO HAS CORRESPONDED SEVERAL TIMES WITH EMBASSY ON CHARIBIAN CASE.)

3. CONSOFF ALSO TRANSMITTED TO NECHAYEV AND TO CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL IGOR TRUKHIN (WHO SAT IN) STATEMENT MADE BY PARENTS BN MRS. GHARIBIAN, MR AND MRS SOOREN SIMONIAN, WHO JUST COMPLETED VISIT TO SON-IN-LAW. SIMONIANS VISITED EMBASSY YESTERDAY, ACCOMPANIED BY MR. GHARIBIAN (WHO MANAGED IN THEIR COMPANY TO SLIP BY "MILITIAMAN" POSTED OUTSIDE EMBASSY). SIMONIANS ENDEAVORED CALL ON BOTH ALL-UNION OVIR AND MFA OFFICIAL IN ORDER DISCUSS CONTINUED FAILURE

OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO GRANT EXIT PERMISSION TO SON-IN-LAW, BUT OFFICIALS OF BOTH REFUSED TO RECEIVE THEM. WHEN CONSOFF RAISED MATTER WITH NECHAYEV BY TELEPHONE SEPT 24, LATTER ALSO REFUSED RECEIVE SIMONIANS BUT AGREED ACCEPT THEIR STATEMENT IF TRANSMITTED BY CONSOFF.

SIMONIANS STATED IN THEIR WRITTEN PLEA THAT ANXIETY OVER CONTINUING UNCERTAINTY OF REUNIFICATION WITH HER HUSBAND HAD RESULTED IN THEIR DAUGHTER HAVE MISCARRIAGE. COPIES OF EMBASSY PAPER AND SIMONIAN STATEMENT POUCHED TO EUR/SOV.

4. IN ACCEPTING EMBASSY PAPER AND SIMONIANS' STATEMENT (NOTARIZED BY EMBASSY), NECHAYEV STATED THAT HE HAD LOOKED INTO MATTER SEPT 24 AND HAD ASCERTAINED THAT GHARIBIAN'S APPLICATION STILL "UNDER CONSIDERATION". CONSOFF REPLIED THAT SEVEN MONTH PERIOD SINCE DATE OF GHARIBIAN APPLICATION WOULD APPEAR TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT TIME FOR SUCH "CONSIDERATION", AND HE REITERATED EMBASSY REQUEST THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE BE DONE TO EXPEDITE RESOLUTION THIS CASE. NECHAYEV AGREED, AS CUSTOMARY, TO PASS RENEWED EMBASSY REQUEST TO "APPROPRIATE ORGANS."

5. FYI: IN EXPRESSING TO CONSOFF ON SEPT 24 THEIR ANXIETY OVER STATE OF HEALTH OF THEIR DAUGHTER AS WELL AS HARASSMENT SUFFERED BY HER HUSBAND AS INTENDED EMIGRANT FROM USSR, SIMONIANS VOLUNTEERED THEIR AWARENESS THAT SEVERAL OTHER US-SOVIET MARRIAGE CASES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 11660 251918Z

HAD BEEN RESOLVED ONLY AFTER EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY IN US. THEY STATED THAT THEY HAVE DRAWN "PROPER CONCLUSION" AND THAT THEY TOO PLAN TO "GO TO THE PRESS". CONSOFF REPLIED THAT THIS IS MATTER FOR THEM TO DECIDE PERSONALLY. END FYI.

6. IN ANOTHER MARRIAGE CASE WHICH CAME TO EMBASSY ATTENTION SEPTEMBER 24, NANCY ARPY JOFARGIAN OF WALDWICK, NEW JERSEY, NOW A STUDENT AT YEREVAN UNIVERSITY, PASSED WORD TO EMBASSY BY WAY OF AMCIT

TOURIST THAT SHE MARRIED HAMLET HAROUTOURIAN IN RELIGIOUS CEREMONY (WITHOUT LEGAL EFFECT IN SOVIET UNION) SEPTEMBER 5 IN ETSMIADZIN, ARMENIA, AND WISHED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING CIVIL CEREMONY. TOURIST CONDUCTED CONSOFF TO HAROUTOURIAN (WHO WAS WAITING OUTSIDE EMBASSY OUT OF SIGHT OF MILITIA) AND HE WAS PROVIDED STANDARD "NO IMPEDIMENT" STATEMENT ONCE CONSOFF SUCCEEDED IN BRINGING HIM INTO EMBASSY PAST MILITIAMEN. ACCORDING TO HAROUTOURIAN, MISS JOFARGIAN WAS TOLD BY YEREVAN UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS THAT IF SHE CAME TO MOSCOW TO VISIT EMBASSY SHE WOULD BE EXPELLED FROM UNIVERSITY. CONSOFFS WILL OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS CASE BEFORE RAISING OFFICIALLY.

7. COMMENT: IN VIEW FACT THAT EXPANSION IN BILATERAL CONTACTS HAS BROUGHT SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN NUMBER OF US-SOVIET MARRIAGES (MOSCOW REPAIR), DEPT MAY WISH ADVISE SOVEMB WASHINGTON OF PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM CAUSED BY CONTINUED BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS IN REUNITING THESE SPOUSES.

DECON 9/31/77

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOSCOW11660
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730912/aaaaaiuq.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MOSCOW 9663 AND A-517
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Sep-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <04-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXIT VISA REPRESENTATION: US-SOVIET MARRIAGE CASES
TAGS: CVIS, CASC, UR, (GHARIBIAN, RAZMIK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005